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CALENDAR OF ILLINOIS HISTORY.

April 9, 1839—Chicago's first daily newspaper, the Chicago American, began publication. William Stuart, editor.

ORGAN MUSIC FOR CHILDREN.

"In all the cities and larger towns of the United States there are hundreds and thousands of boys and girls who never hear good music," declares Dr. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education. "If they hear music at all, it is of the ragtime or vaudeville type or the mechanical music of the moving picture theaters. Some of them hear and join in the Sunday School songs to the accompaniment of small organ or piano. Of music that appeals to the best of their emotions, that stirs the soul and helps to form good taste in music, they hear little or none. Many of these children live amid the ugliness and squalor of the slums, where there is little to appeal to, and help form the sense of beauty and grandeur in light and color, form and space. Yet, in these same towns and cities are scores and hundreds of costly churches, beautiful and attractive in the vaulting of their ceilings, in the tinting of their walls and the colors of their windows, and impressive in their spaciousness. In almost every church there is a great organ with its wide range of tone and its possibilities of harmonies which stir the soul to its depths and may help toward better tastes and nobler ideals. But these churches remain closed and the organs silent when the children work in the mills or play in the alleys and their souls starve unconsciously.

"Why should not every church in which there is a good organ and which has a competent organist open its doors freely to children between the ages of eight or nine to seventeen or eighteen for one hour every week at such time as may be most convenient for the largest number of the children within its reach and arrange for its organist to render for the children the best music in their best style? Sometimes the organ music might be varied by orchestra and singing, but it should never partake of the nature of a lesson for the children. It should never appear to be in any way didactic, nor should any music low or trashy in its nature be included in the program. The program should be arranged for the young people. The older people should of course be admitted, but as the guests of the children. Children should be permitted to come and go quietly. If users are provided to help them find seats, there will be little danger of their becoming noisy or disorderly. All children, the poor and rich alike, should be invited and made to feel welcome. They should not be expected to dress for the occasion. There should be about the occasion no formality that might tend to keep any children away. It should be easy for new boys, messenger boys, shop girls, boys and girls from the mills, and children at play on the street to go immediately from their occupations, listen to the music for all or a portion of the hour, and return directly again to their occupations or play.

"WAR BREAD"

We probably won't be driven to the adoption of "war bread" in this country, after the manner of Germany. It is inconceivable that we should face any food shortage serious enough to necessitate the systematic adulteration and deterioration of our bread. We shall hardly have to mix barley and potatoes with our wheat flour. Nevertheless, there is already sound reason for economizing in this matter, and there will be no reason as the season advances.

We can economize easily enough, if we choose. If, instead of using white, bleached flour deprived of the grain germ and most of the valuable mineral salts, we should use the whole wheat, it is said that we should add

BATTLE IN SKIES
TO KEEP FOE FROM
SEEING POSITIONS

GERMAN AVIATORS ATTACK ALLIED FLIERS WHO SEEK CONCEALMENTS AND TROOP ALIGNMENTS.

London, April 8.—Heavy fighting by land and air was in progress all day Sunday over the greater part of the western front.

Dispatches received today stated that the mighty sky engagements for mastery of the air, in which both sides have already lost scores of machines, is still in progress. The Germans are fighting viciously to prevent the Anglo-French airmen from learning the battery locations and the troop alignments behind the Cambrai-St. Quentin-La Fere-Laon line.

There were smart counter assaults and thrusting actions during the night. The artillery duelling was particularly severe on the Meuse River, in Champagne (around Rheims) north of the Aisne, between Arras and Lens and in West Flanders. German gunners continue to concentrate heavy fire against Rheims and the city is slowly crumbling into ruins beneath the rain of projectiles.

Military experts believe that the scenes are being set for another gigantic battle on the western front. The offensive of the allied airmen and the growing fury of the cannonades all indicate preparations for another burst of infantry operations on a grand scale.

Tragic details are given of the fighting among the clouds. In some instances British airmen flew fifty miles behind the German front and fought running battles with the Germans while going nearly 150 miles an hour. American aviators have been taking a prominent part in the aerial actions.

SOCIAL CENTERS IN SCHOOLS.

Forty-five Such Institutions in Chicago, Idea Grows.

The idea of having social centers conducted in the public schools is so strongly approved in Chicago that forty-five of the schools now have them, and the superintendent of schools has been authorized to open centers in other school buildings in which they are desired.

The appropriation for this purpose for the present year is \$50,000, and the president of the board of education, Jacob M. Leeb, hopes to secure \$100,000 with which to pursue the work next year.

The growth of the idea is apparent from the increase in the number of these centers conducted last year, from twenty-seven for a limited period of seven weeks' duration to forty-five this year for the longer period of twenty-three weeks.

President Leeb feels that the education which may be derived from the evenings thus spent in social intercourse is as important as any of the other fundamentals and that it really gives a finishing touch to the work of citizen making.

The weight of ore cars descending a mine in South Africa is used to produce power by pulling a cable wound around a drum that drives a dynamo, practically 100,000 bushels or so to our wheat crop. That would make the supply last just that much longer. It would provide us with cheaper bread. And we should simply be doing what the dietary experts have been advising us to do all along. The whole wheat bread, they insist, is much more wholesome. And those who already have the habit maintain that it has a better flavor, when once you become accustomed to it.

If we care to go further than that, there is the possibility of adopting a year bread that would be still cheaper, no less wholesome, and characteristically American. It would be made of a mixture of wheat with our most distinctly American cereal—Indian corn. Most of us know the appetizing flavor and dietary merits of corn alone, in the form of corn bread, griddle cakes, corn-muffins, etc. Ground fine and mixed with wheat flour, the corn meal makes an excellent bread, readily digested by all but the most delicate stomachs, and combining the admirable food qualities of both cereals.

There would be no hardship in such an innovation. There would be economy and common sense. It would enormously expand our available food supply, bearing our own people against want and providing a big surplus for the hungry nations of Europe.

A STIRRING PLEA

For

A PURE LIFE BEFORE MARRIAGE

—SEE—

"DAMAGED GOODS"

FORWARD GO THE BRITISH GUNS
OVER TERRITORY LEFT BY GERMANS

FORWARD IN THE "BIG PUSH"—BRITISH DRAG THEIR FIELD ARTILLERY INTO POSITION

Photo by American Press Association.

While the Germans halt the recent retirement of their army in France as a wonderful military achievement, calling it a strategic movement of the highest order, the British and French speak otherwise and say it was forced principally

by their superior artillery fire. Even German writers pay tribute to the massed artillery of the allies and call the bombardment of their lines "hellish." Whether or not the allies are really superior in big guns remains to be seen. They say they have been able to bring up their

guns over the ground devastated by the Germans and will be able to shell the Kaiser's troops out of their new defenses. The picture reproduced is one of the latest received from the British front in France and shows the advance of one of the British field guns.

CONDEMN BACK YARD FENCES.

New York Charity Organization Society Says They Are a Menace.

"It was a happy thought," says the bulletin issued by the New York city board of health, "which prompted the suggestion by the tenement house committee of the Charity Organization Society that the long, dreary rows of high board fences common to every tenement section in New York city be eliminated and be replaced by metal fences.

"Although this is primarily a campaign against unsightliness, the bulletin welcomes the move as one which is bound to improve health conditions in the community, for the iron fences will mean more light, a freer circulation of air and a marked decrease in the accumulation of dirt and rubbish."

The tenement house committee has issued an appeal to tenement builders and owners based on purely business considerations. A little four-page circular has been prepared by the committee to demonstrate that the use of metal fences will not merely benefit the community, but that it is a profitable investment of the first order.

Among the counts against the hideous wooden fences now in vogue the committee mentions the following:

They require continual attention and repairs, making a constant additional expense; they are an ever present fire danger; they make fine hiding places for thieves; they encourage the accumulation of rubbish, and they shut off considerable sunlight and air.

No Advertising Signs on California Highways.

The California state highway commission will take down all advertising signs along the California state highways.

Before the next touring season begins the California commission plans to erect its own signs and markers on all the state highways, and tourists will lose nothing in the way of directions by the order removing advertising signs, it is announced.

CITY HOME RULE BILL.

State Senator of New York Proposes Amendment Affecting Cities.

Home rule for every municipality in New York state is the aim of a proposed constitutional amendment which has been presented by Senator Ogden L. Mills. The amendment follows in a general way the lines of a proposal that came before the late constitutional convention and went down to defeat with the rest of the revised constitution when submitted to the voters. It provides that only general laws affecting cities shall be passed by the legislature and forbidding the passing of any special act affecting the affairs or property of a city, or one or more counties situated wholly within a city.

The amendment also empowers municipalities, through their local legislative bodies, to adopt and amend local laws not inconsistent with the state constitution or the general laws of the state.

Some Pertinent Questions.

A recent questionnaire sent out by the Marlon (O.) Chamber of Commerce covered such questions as removal of overhanging street signs, increased vocational educational work, a proposed subscription campaign for a hospital, use of the high school building as a city hall and military training for high school students.

"Not a Cent For Tribute."

The saying "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!" is attributed to General Pinckney, who was minister to France in the early part of this century. History says that when General Pinckney was informed that the payment of a certain sum might settle the diplomatic suit then existing between France and the United States he indignantly replied, "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!" It is said, however, that long afterward, upon the general being asked by members of a club to which he belonged whether he had ever made such a remark, he replied, "No, my answer was not a flourish like that, but simply, 'Not a penny, not a penny!'"

CITY WATERWORKS.

North Carolina In Lead In Safeguarding Its People's Health.

A few years ago only towns and cities of 10,000 and 15,000 inhabitants were supposed to have public water supplies, according to Warren H. Booker, of the state board of health of North Carolina, but now there are very few towns in the state having a population of 1,000 or 1,500 that do not have well supervised water supplies.

Mr. Booker is at the head of the engineering and educational department of the state board of health and has oversight of the state's public water supplies. According to some recent figures got together by him, ninety-seven towns in the state have public water supplies, fifty-eight of which are county seats. Other county seats that have over 1,000 population, according to the 1910 census report and that still have no public water works, are: Williamston, with a population of 1,574; Whitesville, 1,398; Mocksville, 1,063; Troy, 1,054. Other towns having a population in 1910 of over 1,000 and having no water works are: Belhaven, 2,863; Randolph, 1,950; Caroleen, 1,892; Spring Hope, 1,246; Enfield, 1,167; Gibsonville, 1,162; Kernersville, 1,128; Dallas, 1,065; Madison, 1,033; Rameur, 1,022; Lenoir, 1,007.

"But the most encouraging feature about this work, particularly as it relates to public health work," says Mr. Booker, "is that not a few towns with a population less than 1,000, according to the census of 1910, have either put in water works or are making plans for the same. These might be mentioned as Saluda, with a population of 235; Franklin, 379; Raeford, 590; Elm City, 500; Bryson City, 612; Rowland, 787; Warrenton, 807; Farmville, 810; Carthage, 883; Elkin, 889; Broadard, 910; and Murphy, 977."

According to other figures collected by Mr. Booker, more attention is given the subject of safeguarding the people's health through its water supplies in North Carolina than in any other state. The 1915-16 report of the state laboratory of hygiene shows that for that period 3,289 water analyses were made. That the state has been comparatively free from epidemics of a water borne origin, typhoid fever in particular, for the past several years is no doubt due to the general interest that has been taken in sanitary matters, particularly to public water supplies and sewerage.

Amazing Vogue of Golf.

Twenty-five years ago there was as much golf played in the United States as there is baseball played in the central villages of the Fiji Islands, which is to say practically none whatever. Yet there are today more than 3,200 golf courses, covering more than 300,000 acres, inhabited by something like 900,000 players of both sexes from twelve to eighty years of age. In the broad span of sport, no previous record such a development as this in so short a time—Grantland Rice in New York Tribune.

MENTAL ENERGY.

It pays to think. It is like putting money out at interest. Dollars make dollars, and thoughts make other thoughts. We are so accustomed to having this old world reward us for things we do in dollars that we forget there is such a reward as brains—mental growth. Happy the one who sees all these things in their proper light, who recognizes in every failure a lesson learned, in every effort a reward.

Moving Pictures in Alaska.

Every coast town in Alaska, from Juneau to Nome, and practically every town with a population of 200 or more has a moving picture theater. All get the best films and produce the biggest features. The picture theater at Cantile, 200 miles north of Nome, is located nearer the pole than any other picture show in the world. Prices of admission range from 25 cents to 50 cents in coast towns and generally \$1 in interior towns like Fairbanks and Iditarod. When features of unusual merit or expense are put on the admission price is raised, having in a few instances been as high as \$5 for extraordinary attractions.

Mahogany Growth.

The rate of growth of mahogany is shown in southern Nigeria, where the site of a town destroyed sixty years ago has been covered with a forest of mahogany trees, some of which are more than ten feet in diameter.

FACING DEATH

is a pleasure compared with other dangers confronting us.

TAKE WARNING

—SEE—

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"Red Devil"
Dry Batteries

are brim full of spark.

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and Power

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